In conclusion, the Member spoke about the decadence of their cottage industries such as basket-making, mat-making, etc., and prayed that they be saved from the unnecessary restrictions imposed by the Forest Department.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

152. Entertainment of South Travancore Christians in the various ranks of the State Service.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that South Travancore Christians were practically not represented in the subordinate service, though they formed one-fourth of the population and one-third of the literates in South Travancore. It was due to the unsympathetic attitude of the Heads of Departments in whom the power of appointments mostly lay. The policy pursued in the matter of entertaining the backward classes should be extended to the members of his community also. The Revenue Department was totally closed to the Christians. They might be freely entertained at least as clerks in the Taluk and Division Cutcherries.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

153. Entertainment of an adequate number of Roman Catholic Christians in the State Service.

Mr. M. F. Augustine (Member, Nominated) regretted that, in spite of the representations on the subject at the several sessions of the Assembly, the Government had not taken the necessary steps towards securing adequate representation in the State service to Roman Catholic Christians. In the absence of a list of the employés classified according to caste or creed he was not in a position to give the exact number of Christians employed in the lower ranks. The Member also observed that the paucity was due to the policy of their exclusion from the Revenue and Military Departments.

The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to adopt the most sympathetic policy towards the Catholics in the matter of their appointment and promotion in the lower grades of the service including the Revenue and Military Departments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

154. Entertainment of Ezhavas and other backward communities in the State Service.

Mr. G. Padmanabhan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government on behalf of the backward communities for the liberal policy pursued in recent years in the matter of admission of qualified members of those communities in the several departments of the State. The subject had been brought forward at the various sessions of the Assembly. All that he prayed for was that, among men of equal qualifications, preference should be given in the matter of appointments to candidates from the backward communities.

The Member particularly requested that Ezhavas should be more largely employed in the Excise, Education, Anchal, Registration, Police and Revenue departments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

155. Entertainment of a larger number of Nairs in the State Service.

Mr. G. Ramakrishna Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that, from the very first session of the Assembly, the different communities had been urging their claims for preferment in the Public Service, and that the Nair Members alone were dealing with general questions. He trusted that the authorities and the other communities would not construe their silence till now as their whole-hearted contentment with their present number in the different branches of the Government service. The impression among the Nair community was that they had not secured that share of Government appointments which was theirs in virtue of their position, material wealth, the tax they paid, their educational qualifications, high literary and general enlightenment. The Member then gave statistics of Nair employees in the various branches of the service and contended that the proportion was comparatively small.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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